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H.C.R. No. 61

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has an effective and
2 well-developed water planning process that relies on stakeholder
3 input and promotes local control, but the executive and legislative
4 branches of the federal government are embarking on a campaign to
5 shift water resources planning from the state and local levels to
6 the federal level; and

7 WHEREAS, Currently being considered by the federal
8 government are a sweeping array of legislation, executive orders,
9 and agency rules that, taken together, cover nearly all aspects of
10 water resources policy and law; these measures would erode state
11 and local primacy over water resources planning and management and
12 severely constrain the planning and implementation successes Texas
13 has already achieved; and

14 WHEREAS, More than half a century ago, following an
15 extraordinary drought, state legislators created the Texas Water
16 Development Board to ensure the continued availability of water
17 supplies; since then, state leaders have developed water planning
18 processes to identify and cultivate the resources required to meet
19 growing domestic, agricultural, and environmental needs; these
20 carefully crafted policies address the state's unique
21 environmental conditions while respecting private property rights,
22 and they are essential to keeping pace with the demands of a
23 population that is expected to double by the year 2060; and

24 WHEREAS, Increasing federal requirements and control over

1 water planning and development would greatly complicate and
2 unnecessarily extend the process of securing federal permits for
3 many water-related projects sought by local interests, rendering
4 some simply unviable; moreover, federal initiatives would be
5 unlikely to incorporate sufficient input from the local, regional,
6 and state stakeholders who are most impacted; regional and local
7 water entities are the most knowledgeable about the needs of their
8 communities and have a proven track record of expertly balancing
9 the many environmental, economic, and human factors that constitute
10 an effective planning discipline; and

11 WHEREAS, A federally centralized approach would not only
12 undermine the state's strong tradition of stewardship over its
13 waters, transferring responsibility to far-removed officials, but
14 would also infringe on the sovereignty of the State of Texas; the
15 future of the state's economy, public health, and treasured natural
16 resources is closely tied to its ability to manage and control its
17 water supplies; it is therefore imperative that final decisions
18 regarding the needs of local communities reside with the state,
19 regional, and local entities that are so uniquely qualified to make
20 them; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby express its opposition to federal interference in state
23 management of Texas' water resources; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
25 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
26 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
27 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the

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1 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
2 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
3 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.